

Approved For Release 2000/05/22 : CIA-RDP82-00457R009500300006-2

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon/USSR

DATE DISTR. 7 JAN 52

SUBJECT Movement of Soviet Legation Personnel

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

25X1X 1. [REDACTED] Grigori Batruchevich has replaced Viktor Khangulov as First Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Beirut. Khangulov, who left Beirut for Moscow, USSR, on 9 October 1951, is definitely not returning to Lebanon.1

25X1X 2. Viktor Nikulin, Press Attaché at the Soviet Legation in Beirut, has moved his offices to a seven-room apartment on the third floor of the Nasri Tadrus Building on rue al-Uzahi in the Mazra' Quarter of Beirut. The rent on the new offices, [REDACTED], is 4,500 Lebanese pounds a year. A secretary and stenographer moved to the new office with Nikulin; the rooms which they vacated will be converted into living quarters for Soviet Legation personnel.

3. Nikulin, who will continue to be Press Attaché, has been replaced as Director of the Soviet Information Bureau by its former Assistant Director, Konstantin Grishchkin. The Information Bureau will now be located in the main Soviet Legation building in Mar Ilyas.

4. Wasfi Banna, who had been translating propaganda articles from French into Arabic at the Soviet Legation until his recent departure for Moscow, has been replaced by Sulayman Abu-Zayd, an editor of the Beirut newspaper al-Hadaf, and Hasib Nimr, an editor of al-Sharq.2 [REDACTED] the 25X1X two men will each work three hours a day and will each be paid 150 Lebanese pounds a month.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Khangulov's departure for Moscow has been confirmed by two other sources in Beirut who are usually reliable. For the report of Batruchevich's arrival in Beirut, [REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] Wasfi Banna had left Lebanon for Moscow on about 12 October 1951. Abu-Zayd and Nimr have both been reported previously as communist sympathizers; al-Hadaf and al-Sharq are well-known pro-communist papers. 25X1X

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Date: 1 SEP 1978

REF ID: A66000
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